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Promotion of basic science

3562. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) what steps have been taken by Government to promote basic science in the country;
- (b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for enhancement in the amount of Junior/Senior Research Fellowship being awarded by the CSIR; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and what other steps Government propose to take to encourage the future scientists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) The Government is continuing to promote basic science in the Universities/Academic institutions/National Laboratories through various R & D programmes, namely, funding of R & D projects, establishment of centres/national facilities, Projects and fellowships for young scientists, etc.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The Government has initiated a number of new schemes recently to encourage young scientists and science students towards basic research. These schemes include Kishore Vaigyanic Protsahan Yojana, Swarna Jayanti Fellowships. Further, the Government has also recently set up a Fund for Improvement of S & T Infrastructure in Universities and other Higher Educational Institutions (FIST) to use infrastructural improvements as a means of attracting and retaining talent.

Grants for Sports Schemes

3563. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state: